

127

Captain BILTON'S
JOURNAL
OF HIS
Unfortunate Voyage

FROM
LISBON to *VIRGINIA*,
In the YEAR 1707.

Giving an Account of the Miraculous Preservation of Himself and Nine other Persons; who, after their Vessel was Wreckt, were reduc'd to a small Boat, and kept by the most Tempestuous Weather, from Sight of any Land, for 31 Days, having nothing to Subsist on, and constrain'd to Drink their own Urine.

At length they were Cast upon the COAST of *ANGUILLA*, a small Island in the *West-Indies*; An Exact Description thereof; Their Reception they met with from the Inhabitants, and an Account of the Strange Creatures found in those Parts.

L O N D O N:

Printed for A. BETTESWORTH, at the *Red Lion* in *Pater-Noster-Row*; and E. CURLL, at the *Dial* and *Bible* against *St. Dunstan's Church* in *Fleetstreet*. 1715.

(Price Six-pence.)

SA 2820.1

JOURNAL

Rec^d May 1. 1845

Bought with the Request of the
Hon^{ble} Wm Prescott, of Mass

Giving an account of the numerous provisions
of himself and his other family who after
their vessel was wrecked were reduced to a small
boat and kept for several days in the open sea
that they might be rescued, for at last
they were rescued and confined to
prison for some time.

At length they were sent upon the coast of
the United States and landed in the State
of Maine. At this time the people were
in a state of excitement with regard to the
and a account of the strange circumstances found
in the case.

That the State of Maine was the first to
receive the people and that they were
received with the greatest kindness and
that they were allowed to remain in the State
for some time.

To the Worthy
MASTER,
WARDENS and BRETHREN
OF THE
Trinity-House
OF
NEWCASTLE upon TYNE:

THIS
JOURNAL
OF
His Unfortunate VOYAGE from
LISBON to VIRGINIA,

IS
Most humbly Inscrib'd

BY

Thomas Bilton.

337/3 To the World

MAS TER
WARDENS and BRETHREN

OF THE
Trinity-House

OF
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

THIS
JOURNAL

OF
His Unfortunate Voyage from
LISBON to NORTHERN

IS
Most humbly inscribed

BY

Thomas Bilson

[1]

A
VOYAGE

FROM

Lisbon to Virginia.

ON the 30th of October, Anno 1707,
we Sail'd for *Lisbon*; and De-
cember the 24th, Arriv'd in the
Soundings, on the Coast of *Virginia*; were
put off again by hard Gales of Wind, and
got in again, and came to an Anchor at
Cape-Hatteras, and spoke to the *Virginians*
Ashore, and beat on the Coast till March

A

the

the 19th; then we bore away for *Bermudas*: But our Ship proving very Leaky, and the Badness of the Weather, forced us to leave her, and take to our Boat; and the Gale being so very hard, obliged us to go afore the Wind: The Wind being then at *West*, *South-West*, and *South-West by West*. We left the *Pink* in the Latitude of *Bermudas*, $32^{\text{d}}. 30^{\text{m}}$. and afterwards scudded with the Boat three Days, and came into the Latitude of $33^{\text{d}}. 00$; then the Wind chopt about *Northerly*, and so continued while we cross'd the Tropic, and got the *Trade-Wind*; but met in the *Trade-Wind* several Calms and hot Weather, which caus'd us to spend our Water much; but sometimes we got a little Rain-Water. Our Allowances being but small, scarce a Pint of Water a Day, we were forc'd to drink our own Water. Bread and Cheese we had enough, though we could eat but little for want of Water: We lost our *Tanle*, *Instruments*, Books and Cloaths, save only
 one

one Old *Quadrant*, which we design'd for *St. Christopher's*, or the first Island we could make; but the *Quadrant* being *Northerly*, fell in with the Island of *Anguilla*, being 17 Leagues to the *Northward* of *St. Christopher's*, where the People were very kind to us.

On the 19th of *April*, at Three in the Afternoon, we got our Boat ashore at *Long-Bay*, where they carried us all up, and laid us by a Well that Night, with a Tilt over us, and got us some Victuals. That Night they sent to the Governor, who order'd another Boat, with several Men, to bring us higher up, along the Island, where he himself met us, with several of the Island-Planters; and they dispers'd us into the Island to their Houses, carrying some of us on Horses, some in Hammocks, and others between Two Men. They were all of them very kind to us; the worst was, we could not have any News from other Islands; this being an Island of

little Trade, and no Shipping. We were all on the Mending-hand, and heard from one another every Three or Four Days, but generally continued very Weak.

A

A Particular Account of our
Unfortunate EXPEDITION,
is contain'd in the following
JOURNAL.

H.	Course	K.	H. K.	Winds	Friday, March 19. 1703.
2	S. E.	2	I	W. N. W.	C ourse South, South- East, Distance 34 Leagues. Latitude, by dead Reckoning, 34 ^d : 4'. Whole Easting 73 Leagues, Difference of Longitude 90 Leagues. From <i>Cape-Henry</i> , be- ing Bound to <i>St. Chri-</i> <i>stopher's</i> , our Difference of Longitude is 8 ^d :53'.
4	S. S. E.	3		N. W.	
6	S. b. W.	3	I		
8		3	I		
10	S.	4			
12	S. S. E.	4			
2		4	I		
4		4	I		
6		4	I		
8		4	I		
10		4	I		
12		4	I		

This 24 Hours a hard Gale, Rain, and a great
Sea.

Satur-

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind	<i>Saturday, March 20.</i>
2	S. S. E.	5		N. W.	<p>Courfe <i>South - East</i> by <i>East</i> ; Distance 32 Leagues ; Latitude by dead Reckoning 32^d, 38' ; Whole Easting 91 Leagues. To day we split our Fore-top Sail, our Ship being very Leaky, infomuch that we shall not be able to keep her.</p>
4		5			
6		5			
8		5		W. N. W.	
10		5			
12	S. E.	7			
2		7			
4		7			
6		7			
8		6			
10		6			
12		6			

This 24 Hours a hard Gale of Wind, a great Sea, and thick Weather,

Sunday, March 21.

This Morning our Ship being so Leaky, and Four of our Men Sick, we were not able to keep her up any longer ; so we got down our Fore-Yard, and brought to under a Main Sail ; then we got out our Boat, and laid in some Bread, Brandy, Wine, and Butter ; but the Wind was so high, and such a great Sea, that we were forc'd to cast greatest Part of it Over-board again, for our Boat would scarce live. Courfe this 24 Hours *West*, Dist. 24 Leagues. Latitude, by dead Reckoning, 32^d : 38' ; Whole Easting 115 Leagues. At 4 of the Clock in the Evening we left our Ship. Since *Sunday* the 21st, till *Wednesday* the 24th, having so much bad Weather, Thunder, Lightning, Rain, Wind, and a great

a great Sea, that our Compass would not stand, and it was as much as we could do to keep the Boat free with Baling of her.

Wednesday, March 24.

It pleased God to send us fair Weather; we had a good Observation, and found our selves in the Latitude of $30^{\circ} : \frac{1}{2}$; so I judge the Wind to have been at *North-West*, and our Courses to be *East* 45° , Southerly; Dist. 56 Leagues; whole Easting 154 Leagues; for having no Log nor Glas in the Boat, we were forced to do as well as we could.

H.	Courfe	K.	H.	K.	Winds
2	E.	3			W.
4	E. b. N.	2	1		W. b. S.
6		3			
8		3	1		
10		2	1		
12	E. b. S.	2	1		W.
2		2	1		
4		2	1		
6		2	1		
8		2			
10		2			
12	E. b. S.	2			W. b. N.

Thursday, March 25.

This 24 Hours, for the most part, a hard Gale of Wind, Rain, Thunder, Lightning, and a great Sea; much ado to keep the Boat above Water. This Day *George Lee* was taken Sick. Course this 24 Hours *East by South*, Dist. 20 Leagues. Latitude, by dead Reckoning, $30^{\circ} : 34'$; whole Easting is 168 Leagues. Last Night, at 8 of the Clock, as we were at Prayers, our Boat struck upon something; it being dark, we saw nothing, but supposed it to be a *Fish*, and so our Boat sprung a Leak.

Fri-

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Winds
2	E.	1	1	W.
4	E. S.E.	3		W.N.W.
6		3	1	
8	S.E. & E.	3	1	
10		3	1	
12		4	1	
2		4		
4		4	1	
6		4	1	
8		4	1	
10		4	1	
12		4	1	

Friday, March 26.

This 24 Hours a fresh Gale, and some Rain. Courfe *East, South-East*, Dist. 37 Leagues. Latitude, by dead Reckoning, $30^{\circ}:00'$; whole Easting 195 Leagues: This Day our Boat was very Leaky.

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	E.	4		S. W.
4		4		
6	E. N.E.	1	1	S.
8	N. E.	1	1	
10	N. N.E.	1	1	
12		1	1	
2		1	1	
4		1	1	
6		1	1	
8		1	1	
10		1	1	
12		1	1	

Saturday, March 27.

This 24 Hours a hard Gale of Wind and Rain, so we were forc'd to hand our Sail, and go before it. Courfe *East* 39° Northerly. Dist. 38 Miles. Latitude, by dead Reckon. $30^{\circ}:24'$; Whole *Easting*, 205 Leagues. Last Night we had much ado to keep our Boat above Water.

Sun-

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	N.N.E.	1	1	S.S.W.
4	N.E.	1	1	S.W.
6	S.E.	1	1	N.W.
8		3	1	
10	S.b.E.	3		
12		3		
2	S.	4		N.b.W.
4		4		
6		4		
8	S.S.W.	5		N.N.E.
10	S.b.W.	5		N.b.E.
12		5		

Sunday, March 28.

This 24 Hours, for the most part, a fresh Gale of Wind, and Rain, and especially thick Weather. Course *East* 67^d: 30' Southerly. Dist. 22 Leagues. Latitude, by dead Reckoning, 29^d: 24'; whole *Easting* 213 Leagues: This Morning our Cook was taken Sick for want of Water.

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	S.	2		N.
4		2		
6		3		
8		4		
10		4		
12		1		
2		1	1	
4		1		
6	Calm			
8	Ditto			
10			1	
12	S.W.	3		S.E.

Monday, March 29.

This 24 Hours, for the most part fine Weather, small Gales. This Day we stoppt the Leak in the Boat. Course *South*, half Westerly. Dist. 14 Leagues. Latitude, by dead Reckoning, 28^d: 45'. Whole *Easting* 212 Leagues.

B

Tuesday;

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	S. S. W	2	I	S. E.
4		3		
6	S. W.	2	I	
8		3		
10	S. W. b. S	3	I	
12	Ditto	I		
2	Calm			S.
4	S. E.	I	I	S. W.
6	S. S. E.	3		
8		4		W. N. W.
10	S.	3		
12		I	I	N. b. E.

Tuesday, March 30.

This 24 Hours fine Weather for the most part, small Rain. Course *South*, half W^y. Dist. 46 Miles. Latit. by good Obs. 28^d : 00'; whole Easting 211 Leagues. This Day the Boy *Lion* was taken Sick, and a Numbness in his Limbs, so that he could not walk along the Boat.

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	S. b. W.	3	I	N.
4		3	I	
6		3	I	
8	S.	3	I	
10	S. b. E.	2		
12		2	I	
2		3	I	
4		2		
6		2	I	
8		2	I	
10		2	I	
12		2	I	

Wednesday, March 31.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, small Gales, and smooth Water. Course, *South by East*. Distance 23 Leagues. Latitude by good Obs. 26^d : 54'; whole Easting 215 Leagues. Last Night our *Carpenter* got the Bottle of *Brandy*, and made himself

drunk, so that we were forc'd to seize him.

Thurs-

H.C.	Course	K.	H.K.	Wind	Thursday, Apr. 1. 1708.
2	S. b. E.	1		W. N. W.	This 24 Hours, for the most part, fine Weather, small Gales. Course, <i>South by East</i> . Dist. 20 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation; whole <i>Easting</i> 218 Leagues. This Day we Clean'd our Boat.
4	S. S. E.		I		
6	S. E.	1		S. S. W.	
8		2			
10		2			
12		1	I		
2		3			
4		3			
6		3			
8		3			
10	S.	6			
12		5	I		

H.	Course	K.	H.K.	Wind	Friday, Apr. 2. 1708.
2	S. S. E.	3		N. N. W.	This 24 Hours, for the most part fine Weather, and smooth Water. Course <i>South South-East</i> , half <i>Southerly</i> . Distance 30 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observat 24 ^d :3'. Whole <i>Easting</i> 226 Leagues. Difference of Longit. 230 Leagues.
4		3			
6		3			
8		4			
10		4			
12		4			
2		4			
4		4			
6		4			
8		4			
10		4			
12		3			

H.	Course	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	S. $\frac{1}{2}$ E ^{ly}	3		N.N.W.
4		3		
6		3		
8		3		
10		3		
12		3		
2		3		
4		3		
6		3		
8		2		
10		2		
12		2		

Friday, April 3rd 20.

This 24 Hours, for the most part fine Weather, fresh Gale, smooth Water. Course S. half Easterly, 37 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, $22^{\circ} : 51'$. Meridian Distance 228 Leagues. This Day our Wine was all out.

H.	Course	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	S. b. E.	1		N. E.
4		1		
6		2		
8		3		
10		3		E. N. E.
12		3		
2		3		
4		3		
6		3		
8		3		
10		3		
12		3		

Saturday, April 4.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, small Gales, smooth Water. Course, half Easterly. Dist. 20 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, $21^{\circ} : 51'$. Meridian Dist. 230 Leagues. This Day Duke *Blandel* was taken Sick,

Sun-

H.	Course	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	Calm			
4		4	I	
6		4		
8		3	I	
10		3		E. by S.
12		3	I	
2		4	I	
4		4	I	
6		4	I	
8		4	I	
10		4	I	
12		4	I	

Thursday, April 9.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, it being so of Wind. Course this 24 Hours, South, half Westerly. Dist. 31 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, 20^d: 21. Meridian Dist. 227 Leagues.

H.	Course	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	S.			E. S. E.
4				
6				
8				
10				
12	Calm			
2				
4				
6				
8	S. b. W.			S. E.
10				
12				

Monday, April 6. 1708.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, a small Gale, and sometimes Calm. Course South by West. Dist. 11 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, 19^d: 48'. Merid. Dist. 226 Leagues.

Tues-

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	S. $\frac{1}{2}$ E ^{ly}	3		N.N.W.
4		3		
6		2		
8		3	I	
10	S. W.	3	I	S. E.
12		3		
2		2	I	
4		2		
6		2		
8		I	I	
10		I	I	
12		I		

Friday, Apr. 7. 1708.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, and smooth Water. Courfe South-West by South. Dist. 16 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, 19^d:09'. Meridian Dist. 218 Leagues.

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	S. W.	I	I	S. E.
4		I		
6	Calm			
8				
10				
12				
2				
4				
6				
8				
10				
12				

Wednesd. Apr. 8. 1708.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, and little Wind. Courfe South-West. Dist. 2 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, 19^d:6'. Meridian Distance 217 Leagues.

Thurs-

H.	Course	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	Calm			
4				
6				
8				
10				
12				
2				
4				
6	W.S.W	1	1	S.
8		1	1	
10		2	1	
12	S.W.	3		S.S.E.

Thursday, April 9.

This 24 Hours fine Weather; it being so hot, that we were almost dead for want of Water to drink. Course *South by West*. Dist. 6 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, $18^{\circ}56'$. Meridian Dist. 212 Leagues.

H.	Course	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	W.S.W	2	1	
4		3		
6		2	1	
8		3		
10		2	1	
12		1	1	
2			1	
4	Calm			
6				
8				
10				
12				

Friday, April 10.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, and Clear. Course *West by South*. Distance 10 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, $18^{\circ}51'$. Meridian Distance 202 Leagues.

Satur.

H. Course K. H. K. Wind Saturday, April 11.

2
4
6
8
10
12
2
4
6
8
10
12

This 24 Hours fine Weather, but very hot ; so that for want of Refreshment, our Cook, and two more, were almost dead. For the Scant of the Sea, we have driven, *West* by *North*, 2 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, $18^{\circ} 52'$. Meridian Distance 201 Leagues.

H. Course K. H. K. Wind Sunday, April 12.

2
4
6
8
10
12
2
4
6
8
10
12

S. S. I. I. E.

This 24 Hours fine Weather. Course *South South-West*. Distance 5 Miles. Latitude, by good Observation, $18^{\circ} 48'$. Meridian Distance 200 Leagues.

Mon-

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	W. b. N	I	I	E. S. E.
4			I	
6		I	I	
8		I		
10		I		
12			I	
2			I	
4			I	
6			I	
8			I	
10		I		
12		I	I	

Monday, April 13.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, but little Wind. Course *West* by *North*, Dist. 7 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, $18^{\circ} : 44'$. Meridian Distance 193 Leagues. Last Night it Rain'd, and we saved about Five Gallons of Rain-Water, or else we should have wanted in a short Time.

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	Calm			
4				
6				
8				
10				
12				
2				
4				
6				
8				
10				
12				

Tuesday, April 14.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, but hazy.

Latitude, by Observation, $18^{\circ} : 40'$.

C

Wed.

H. Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	Calm		
4			
6			
8			
10			
12	S.	I	E. by S.
2		I	
4		I	
6		I	
8	Calm		
10			
12			

Wednesday, April 15.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, small Gales. Course *South by West*. Distance 3 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, $18^{\circ}35'$. Meridian Distance 192 Leagues.

H. Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	S.	I	E. S. E.
4		I	
6	S. W.	2	
8		2	
10		2	
12		2	
2		2	
4		2	
6		2	I
8		2	I
10	Calm	3	
12			

Thursday, April 16.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, and a fine Gale of Wind. Course *South-West, $\frac{1}{4}$ Southerly*. Dist. 14 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, $18^{\circ}05'$. Meridian Dist. 183 Leagues.

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	W.b.S.	2	I	E. by S.
4		3		
6		2		
8		3		
10		2	I	
12		2	I	
2		2	I	
4		2	I	
6		3		
8		3		
10		2	I	
12		2		

Friday, April 17.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, and a fresh Gale. Courfe *West* by *South*. Dist. 21 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, $17^{\circ} : 59'$. Meridian Distance 163 Leagues.

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	S.	2	I	
4		3		
6		3		
8		2	I	
10	S.S.W	2	I	
12		I	I	
2		I		
4	Calm			
6				
8				
10				
12				

Saturday, April 18.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, little Wind. Courfe *South* by *West*. Dist. 11 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, $17^{\circ} : 29'$. Meridian Dist. 161 Leagues. This Day our Reckoning was out.

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	W.	I	I	E. S. E.
4		I		
6			I	
8	Calm			
10				
12				
2				
4				
6				
8				
10				
12				

Sunday, April 19.

This 24 Hours fine Weather, but hot, Courfe *West*, half *Southerly*. Dist. 2 Leagues. Latitude, by good Observation, $17^{\circ}28'$. Meridian Distance 160 Leagues.

H.	Courfe	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	Calm			
4				
6				
8				
10	W.	I		
12		I	I	
2		I	I	
4		2	I	
6		2		
8	Calm			
10				
12				

Monday, April 20.

This 24 Hours fine clear Weather, but we cou'd not make the Land as yet. Courfe *West* 5 Leagues. Dist. 4. Latitude, by good Observation, $17^{\circ}28'$. Meridian Distance 155 Leagues.

Tues-

H.	Course	K.	H. K.	Wind
2	Calm			
4				
6				
8				
10	W.	1	1	E.
12		1	1	
2		2		
4		2	1	See Land.
6	Calm			
8				Of Saint
10				Martin's
12				Fr. Island.

Tuesday, April 21.

This 24 Hours fine Weather. Course *West*, Dist. 5 Leagues. This Morning we saw the Land, and it proved to be *Anguilla*, lying in the Latitude of 18^d: 28'. So that our Boat being Low in the Water, and our Quadrant a little Warped, we

found that it was *Southerly*. As soon as we saw the Land, we broke down our Tilt, and Shipped our Oars; and it was Three of the Clock before we Roaded in with the Land; we went to a Place call'd *Long-Bay*, at the *North North-West* Part of the Island, where we met with one Mr. *Morgan's* Wife and Two *Negroes*; they Received us very kindly, took our Sick People out of the Boat, and killed a young *Kid* for us, which was a great Refreshment to us; for in One and Thirty Days time we had not had enough to satisfy Nature: We were all very greedy of Water; Victuals we did not care for; but the People were so careful of us, that they would not let us drink too much of it, for fear that we should kill our selves. When we got a *Callabath* of Water to our Heads, we thought it

it Death to take it away again. We lay all Night in this Bay.

April 22. We went to a Place, called by the Name of the *Old-Road*, where the Governor came to see us. The Islanders very much bewail'd our Condition, and were ready to fight among themselves, in shewing their Eagerness to Welcome us to their Houses: The Time that we tarried there, none of them would take a Farthing either for our Victuals, Drink, Washing, or Lodging, but would have had us stay'd longer. When we came Ashore, the Gums of Mr. *Asting*, Mate; *William Mather*, *George Lee*, *Duke Buldell*, the Boy *Lion*, and the Cook, were so swell'd, that their Teeth could not be seen; their Skin rough, like a Grater; and so weak, that they could not stand for some Time. After we came Ashore, the Captain was Sick and Weak, but his Gums were well.

Mid-

Middlesex ff. **T** Thomas Bilton, of the Parish
of St. Paul Shadwell, in the
County of Middlesex, Mariner, late Master
of the *Pink* or *Vessel*, called the *Dennis*,
maketh Oath, That on the 22^d of *March*,
1707, the said *Pink* or *Vessel*, being in the
Latitude of 32^d, 30^m, about One Hundred
Leagues to the *Westward* of *Bermudas*,
Bound from *Lisbon* to *Virginia*; the Wind
at *West*, *South-West*, and *South-West* by
West, Blowing very hard: The said
Pink sprung a Leak, which so increas'd
upon her, that this Deponent, and the
rest of the said Ships Company were ob-
lig'd to quit her, and betake themselves to
the Boat. And this Deponent further
saith, That the Wind continuing Three
Days, and Three Nights, *Westerly*, and
Blowing very hard, they could not make
the Island of *Bermudas*, but had got to the
Eastward of that Island about Twenty or
Thirty Leagues. The Wind then came
Northerly, which got them into the *Trade-*
Wind, and bore away for the *West-Indies*;
where

where this Deponent, and the rest of the said Ships Company arrived at a certain Place there called *Anguilla*, on the Twentieth of *April* last past. And this Deponent further saith, That all his Books, Papers and Instruments, were all lost in her when she was Cast away.

Tho. Bilton.

Jurat. Decimo Quinto
die Septembris Anno
Dom. 1708. cor' me,

Robert Constable.

F I N I S.

A Prospect of the Isle of Anguilla.

ANGUILLA, called *Snake-Island* from its Shape, is a Tract of Land about 30 Miles long, and 9 broad, winding almost about, near *St. Martin's Island*, whence it is plainly perceiv'd: There is not any Mountain in it, the Ground lying low and even; where it is broadest there is a Pond, about which 2 or 300 *English* have settled themselves, and plant Tobacco, which is highly esteem'd. The Island lies in 18 Degrees North. In *America* were not to be found any Horses, Kine, Oxen, Sheep, Goats, Swine, or Dogs; but for Supply of Ships in case of Necessity, some of these Creatures were left in several Parts of this New-found World, where they have so multiplied, that now they are more common, as well on the Continent as the *Caribees*, than in any Part of *Europe*.

In these Islands are strange Four-footed Beasts, as the *Opassum*, about the Bigness of a Cat, with a sharp Snout, the nether Jaw shorter than the upper, like a Pig's; it hath very sharp Claws, and climbs Trees easily, feeding upon Birds and Fruit; it hath a Purse or Bag of its own Skin folded under the Belly, wherein to carry its Young, which it lays upon the Ground at pleasure by opening that natural Purse; when he would leave that Place, he opens it again, and the Young ones get in, and so he carries them with him where ever he goes. The Female suckles them without setting them on the

E

Ground,

Ground, for her Teats lie within that Purse, which is much softer within than without ; she commonly brings six Young ones ; but the Male, who hath such another natural Purse under his Belly, carries them in his Turn to ease the Female.

In these Islands are Wild Swine, with short Ears, small Tails, and their Navels on their Back ; some all black, others have white Spots ; their strange grunting is more hideous than Swine, they are called *Javaris* ; the Flesh is of Taste good enough, but hardly taken, the Boar having a Vent or Hole on the Back, by which he refreshes his Lungs, and seems unwearied ; if he be forced to stop, and be pursued by the Dogs, his sharp Tusks tear to Pieces all who set upon him. The *Tatous* is another strange Creature, with a hard scaly Coat like Armour : They have a Head and Snout like a Pig, to turn up the Ground, and in every Paw five sharp Claws, more readily to thrust away the Earth, and discover the Roots, wherewith they are fattened in the Night. Some affirm their Flesh is delicate, and that there is a small Bone in their Tails which helps Deafness : It is known to be good for Noise and Pains in the Ears, some are as big as Foxes ; when they are pursued, or sleep in the Day, they close together like a Bowl, and so dextrously get in their Feet, Head, and Ears under their hard Scales, that all the Parts of their Body are secured against all the Attempts of Huntsmen and Dogs ; and when near some Precipice or steep Hill, they rowl down without Peril. The *Agouty* is of a dark Colour, a little Tail without Hair, hath two Teeth in either Jaw, holding its Meat in the two fore Paws like a Squirrel, and cries

as if it distinctly pronounced the word *Covey*; when hunted it gets into hollow Trees, and is forced thence by Smoke after it hath made a strange Cry: If taken young, it is easily tamed; when angry the Hair of his Back stands upright, and he strikes on the Ground with his hind Feet like a Rabbit, being much of the same Bigness, but his Ears short and round, and his Teeth sharp as a Razor. There are also Musk-Rats, who live in Berries like Rabbits, having a Scent like Musk, which causes Melancholy, and makes such a strong Perfume about their Holes, that it is easy to find them out.

But of all, the *Crocodile*, or *Alligator*, is remarkable; it keeps near the Sea, and in Rivers and Islands uninhabited, and sometimes among the Reeds on Land, hideous to look on. It is thought to live very long, and grows bigger to the last, even to 18 Foot long, and as big as a Hoghead; it hath 4 Feet armed with crooked Claws, the Skin covered all over with Scales; is so hard on the Back, that a Bullet from a Musket shall hardly make any Impression; but if hurt under the Belly, or in the Eyes, he is soon gone; his lower Jaw is immoveable, but hath a wide Mouth, so set with sharp Teeth, that he can cut a Man in two: He runs fast on the Land, but the Weight of his Body makes as deep a Track in the Sand as a Coach-horse; and having no Joints in the Back-bone, goes straight forward, not able to turn his vast Body without difficulty; so that to avoid him, one need only turn aside several times. Those that are bred in the fresh Water smell of Musk, while alive, and the Air is perfumed 100
Paces

Paces about them; nay, the Water retains somewhat of the Smell, which is inclosed in certain Glandules under his Thighs; and being taken thence, retain their Scent long; It may be, by Providence, that Men and other Creatures may avoid being made a Prey to these cruel Monsters.

Those in the Sea have no such Smell, but both kinds are dangerous to those that swim: They have a cunning Slight for seizing Oxen and Cows, for lurking at the Places where they come to Water, and finding one at his Advantage, he half shuts his Eyes, and floats on the Water like a piece of rotten Wood; and getting still nearer to the poor Beast, drinking, and unaware of him, he fastens on his Lips, forcing him under Water, drowning, and then eating him. He likewise takes Men by the same Slight; for *Vincent le Blanc* relates, that the Servant of a Consul of *Alexandria* going to take up one of these cruel Creatures, thinking it a piece of Wood, was drawn by it to the Bottom of the River, and never seen more. There are abundance of these monstrous Crocodiles in these Islands that come in great Numbers in the Night to the Places where the Tortoises are killed, to feed on the Entrails left by Fishermen, who carry great wooden Leavers to keep them off, and oft kill them by breaking their Back therewith. Several Parts of this ravenous Monster are good for many Diseases, the wise Author of Nature having provided some Advantages from Creatures otherwise most pernicious.

T H E E N D.